7139729/2023/VIG-I-PRR01

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH

ABSTRACT

PS – PR and RD Department – Allegations of irregularities in execution of work "Providing internal roads with CC drains in SC.ST colonies Kondawada Panchayat limits in G.L.Puram Madnal (at Kurasangi village under MGNREGS – Charge framed against **Sri K. Muralidhar, Mandal Engineering Officer /Assistant Engineer**, G.L.Puram -Held proved – Inquiry Report communicated – Representation - Imposition of penalty of Stoppage of one (1) annual grade increments without cumulative effect under Rule 9 (iv) of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 - Orders – Issued.

PANCHAYAT RAJ AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (VIG.I) DEPARTMENT

G.O.Rt.No.110 **Dated.17.03.2023.**

Read the following:

1. From the ENC,PR, Letter No. Vig. I (1)/1001/2015, dated: 04.08.2015.
2. G.O.Rt.No.460, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 12.05.2016.
3. G.O.Rt.No.469, PR&RD (Vig. I) Department, Dt: 12.05.2016.
4. From the ENC,PR, Letter No. Vig. I (1)/1001/2015, dated: 23.11.2018.
5. G.O.Rt.No. 419, PR&RD (Vig.I) Department, Dt.13.06.2019.
6. G.O.Rt.No. 420, PR&RD (Vig.I) Department, Dt.13.06.2019.
7. From the ENC,PR and Inquiry Officer, Letter No. ENC (PR)/1001/Enquiry Report/2015, dated: 24.03.2021.
8. Govt. Memo No. 12564/Vig. I/2015-11, PR&RD (Vig.I) Department, Dt: 13.04.2022.
9. From the ENC,PR, Letter No. Vig. I (1)/ 1001/2015, dated: 22.06.2022.

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ORDER:

Based on the recommendations of the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P made in the reference 1st read above relating to certain allegation of irregularities in execution of works under MGNREGS, Government vide reference 2nd read above, have initiated common disciplinary proceedings under Rule 24 of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 and framed following article of charge against **Sri K. Muralidhar**, Mandal Engineering Officer /Assistant Engineer, G.L.Puram under Rule 20 of above said Rules vide reference 3rd read above, with a direction to submit his written statement of defence :

Charge-I

That **Sri K.Muralidhar**, the then Mandal Engineering Officer, G.L.Puram, Vizianagaram district during his tenure as MEO, G.L.Puram, executed providing internal roads with CC drains in SC/ST colonies Kondawada Panchayati limits in GL Puram Mandal (at Kurasangi Village), under MGNREGS during 2012-13 and committed certain irregularities like (i) deficiency in thickness of CC pavement

(P.T.O)

in Bit.1 & Bit.2 is more than 20% and rejected. He is responsible for misappropriation of Government funds to a tune of amount of Rs.3,73,002/-.

By his above mentioned act, **Sri K.Muralidhar**, the then Mandal Engineering Officer, G.L.Puram, Vizianagaram district failed to discharge his duties, lack of integrity, devotion to duty and conduct unbecoming of a Government Servant & thereby contravened Rules, 3(1) and 3(2) of APCS (Conduct) Rules, 1964.

2. In the reference 4th read above, the ENC,PR among others, has furnished dated acknowledgment copy regarding service of charges on the charged officer **Sri K. Muralidhar, MEO/AE,** Parvathipuram on 20.11.2018. But the charged officer has not submitted his written statement of defence.

3. Government after examination, have decided to conduct regular inquiry against the charged officer **Sri K. Muralidhar**, Mandal Engineering Officer /Assistant Engineer (PR) including against ten (10) other co-charged officers involved in the case. Accordingly, in the reference 5th read above, Government appointed the Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P, Vijayawada as the Inquiry Authority under Rule 20 (2) of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 to inquire into the charges framed against all the charged officers in the matter. The Chief Engineer, NABARD has been appointed as Presenting Officer under Rule 20 (5)(c) of above said rules to present the case before the Inquiry Authority on behalf of the disciplinary authority in the matter, vide reference 6th read above.

4. In the reference 7th read above, the Engineer-in –Chief, PR and Inquiry Authority has furnished inquiry report dt: 24.03.2021 wherein the Inquiry Authority among others, has held that as per re-inspection report of the Executive Engineer, Vig. & QC, Srikakulam dated: 01.06.2020, the deficiency in thickness is 17.57% in Bit-1 and 9.22% in Bit-2. As per Govt. Memo No. 15320/Vig. I/2005-1, Dt: 12.05.2006 of PR&RD (Estt. I) Department, if the average of all deficiencies observed is more than 10%, the AEE in-charge of work is to be held responsible. In this case, the average deficiencies of **2 bits is 13.39% which is more than 10%**. The total recovery amount of Rs.1,08,107 (as against earlier value of Rs.3,73,002/-) has been remitted and there is no loss. The Inquiry Authority has held that charge framed against the charged officer **Sri M. Muralidhar, MEO/AE (PR) is held proved**, since the average deficiencies are more than permissible limits.

5. In the reference 8th read above, Government, among others, have communicated a copy of the inquiry report to the charged officer Sri K. Muralidhar, Mandal Engineering Officer /Assistant Engineer (PR) as per Rule 21 (2) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991 for his representation if any on the findings of the Inquiry Officer.

6. In the reference 9th read above, the ENC, PR, AP, Vijayawada has forwarded the representation dt:31.5.2022 of the charged officer **Sri K. Muralidhar, former MEO/ AE (PR), G.L.Puram and working at PRI Division, Parvathpuram,** wherein the charged officer has stated that

(Continued on page 3)

the work was located in remote area and executed with locally available masons and labour. He had put efforts for execution of work as per specifications. The proposed recovery of Rs.1,08,107/- was recovered and no loss. He has requested to consider his representation and to drop further action against him.

7. Government have examined the representation of the charged officer Sri K. Muralidhar, MEO /AE (PR) and observe that the very objective of the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department is that the Engineering works that are being executed shall be executed strictly in accordance with norms, work estimates and technical specifications without any deviation. It is the primary task of the PR. Engg. Personnel to ensure the maintenance of quality in execution of works. When the works are executed under the administrative control of the PR Engg. Personnel, then they are only responsible for inferior quality of execution and the lapses regarding inferior quality of works executed could not be simply thrown on executive agencies viz., Contractors, Sarpanches etc.,The recovery proposed by the Vig. &QC team itself indicate that there was substandard execution was carried out. As such, the charged officer **Sri K.Muralidhar, MEO/AE (PR)** is responsible and his representation to drop further action is devoid of merits.

8. Accordingly, Government after careful examination of the mater, have decided and accordingly, hereby impose a penalty of stoppage of one (1) annual grade increment without cumulative effect under Rule 9 (iv) of A.P.C.S (CC&A) Rules, 1991 against **Sri K. Muralidhar, former MEO/ AE (PR), G.L.Puram and working at PRI Division, Parvathpuram** in the matter.

9. The Engineer-in-Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P,Vijayawada is requested to take necessary action accordingly in the matter.

B.RAJSEKHAR, IAS
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada.
Sri K. Muralidhar, former MEO/ AE (PR), G.L.Puram and working at PRI Division, Parvathpuram
through Engineer in Chief, Panchayat Raj, A.P., Vijayawada.
(with a request to serve the order on the individual and furnish the dated acknowledgment copy)

Copy to:-
The Secretary to Vigilance Commission,
Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, Velagapudi.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY::ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER